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Mrs  
R.M. Farm Museum Chavez



Pan Farm Museum  
July 31 1988

VCNB photo

Mrs Chavez - Owner

7/31/88



# LA VIDA

Noticia  
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## P and M Farm Museum

*With beaded purses and hearses,  
hand-turned washing machines and rakes,  
Manuela Chavez founded her own museum*



MANUELA CHAVEZ sits among her collection of mannequins sporting turn-of-the-century fashions in a room of the P and M Farm Museum. Manuela started the museum's collection with a single beaded purse dating back

BY HALEY WACHDORF  
News-Bulletin Staff Writer  
hwachdorf@news-bulletin.com

### JARALES

Travelers passing by Pablo and Manuela Chavez' P and M Farm Museum on Jarales Road could easily overlook the amazing artifacts from America's history that are housed in the simple buildings.

From vintage turn-of-the-century fashions to a huge farm building filled with covered wagons and a 1925 Ford Model T in mint condition, the Chavezes have dedicated hours of time at auctions and added several wings onto their original homestead to hold their collection.

Manuela said she first had the idea to open a museum when Pablo was serving in World War II. In the years during his absence, she and her family traveled back and forth between their home in Jarales and California, where they went to live with relatives and work when there were no jobs in New Mexico. In her travels, Manuela said, she felt no one was interested in preserving the history of the time.

"I just wanted to have a collection, you know," she said. "Everything has been disappearing when people are getting more modern. We don't have any history here of what we went through, all of your grandparents and me. And that was the thing that interested me. We would go to other places to see some museums, but they were not well-established."

In 1942, Manuela got an unexpected start to her museum. An elderly woman she befriended in Colorado donated the first display item, a red-and-black beaded purse handed down to her from her mother, and dating back to the 1800s.

"I just told her 'This belongs in a museum,' and she said 'Here, you take it for your museum,'" Manuela said.

Manuela took the purse, but her collection only grew from there. Now the purse hangs in a glass display case along with a variety of jewelry and bridal and evening gowns and a collection of hats in a room dedicated to American history. There are portraits of American presidents, old stamps, coins and World War II memorabilia. Another room is dedicated to early kitchen appliances, from hand-churned washing machines to wood-burning stoves. Another room is



PABLO CHAVEZ is proud of his collection of antique farm equipment and automobiles, many of which still run.

Haley Wachdorf-News-Bulletin photos



# Museum

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filled with dolls and children's toys.

Even the outside grounds of the museum have a story to tell, with a whole yard filled with old farm equipment and windmills.

While Manuela maintains the indoor exhibits, Pablo is the curator of the automobiles and turn-of-the-century farm equipment.

He is proud that most of the early-model

automobiles he has still run, as will some of the farm equipment he once used to cultivate his own land after his return from the war.

"I bought this (thresher) in 1947 and I threshed 10,000 acres with it, and it still runs," he said.

Pablo and Maria, who have had visitors from all over the world, are more than willing to take the time to tell the story of the museum. And in telling their story, they've collected plenty of new stories from their talks with their visitors, Manuela said.

"I started to advertise and ... a couple from Japan came to visit people in Albuquerque and they came to see it. In England, the word has really gotten out," she said. "Minnesota, Michigan, they have relatives here and they don't know what to do with their relatives, so they say 'Well, we have this museum you'd really like.' The couple that came from England had a little motor home and they couldn't get into the mobile home parking, so they came back, and I said 'Why don't you park here?' and they stayed that night."

## If you go ...

The P and M Farm museum is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$1 for children, \$4 for senior citizens.



Haley Wachdorf/News-Bulletin photo

**MANUELA CHAVEZ demonstrates the use of an old piece of equipment that is part of the P and M Farm Museum's vast collection of antique farm vehicles and automobiles.**



